



May 8, 1992

## Superfund Fact Sheet

# Monsanto Elemental Phosphorus Plant Caribou County, Idaho

◆ **Monsanto to conduct additional testing this Spring and Summer.**

### Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

Sampling of ground water, surface water, and potential contaminant sources was done in October, 1991. These results are being evaluated and compared with previously collected data. Additional data may be needed to make informed decisions about the site. Some additional testing is scheduled for mid-May.

Monsanto has submitted a draft "Preliminary Site Characterization Report" which includes groundwater, soil, air and surface water sampling results to date, along with interpretations of the data. EPA and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) are reviewing the Monsanto report, asking questions, and preparing comments. The report and its results will help to form the basis for Phase 2 of the Remedial Investigation. This will ensure a more complete understanding of the facility.

### What is happening next?

During May, Monsanto will collect on and off-site groundwater samples. Some additional testing may be conducted this summer based on data needs revealed in the Preliminary Site Characterization Report. Phase 2 of the RI will result in a more complete site characterization and understanding of the nature and extent of contamination. The need and options for cleanup, if any, will be evaluated during the Feasibility Study.

### Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

When the Superfund Law was amended in 1986, Congress included provisions for the TAG Program. This program is intended to foster informed public involvement relating to site-specific cleanup strategies under Superfund.

Grants of up to \$50,000 can be made available to community groups for the purpose of hiring technical advisors to help people understand and interpret site-related technical information. This includes providing information to the community.

Eligible community groups must cover 20% of the total costs of the project. This local share can be in cash or "in-kind". TAG funds may not be used to develop additional information about the site (for example: new sampling) or to underwrite legal actions in any way.

For more information, please call **Dwight Davis**, TAG Coordinator at (206) 553-0603 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

### Site History

The Monsanto Chemical Company has operated an elemental phosphorus plant north of Soda Springs, Idaho since 1952. The facility primarily manufactures elemental phosphorus. Phosphorus from the Monsanto plant is used for a wide variety of common applications in detergents, soft drinks, leavening agents in baked goods, toothpaste, and water treatment. Other applications include use in the metal plating and automobile industries, fire retardants, and herbicides ("Round-up").

Monsanto processes large quantities of phosphate ore at the site. Phosphate ore typically contains, in addition to phosphate compounds, compounds of vanadium, molybdenum, arsenic, barium, chromium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and chloride. The facility uses large quantities of water and has generated and stored large quantities of industrial waste materials on-site. Several old landfills exist that contain substances such as vanadium pentoxide catalyst and asbestos.

In 1987, because of concerns about potential contamination of ground water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed adding the Monsanto Soda Springs facility to the National Priorities List (NPL), commonly known as Superfund. The site was formally added to the NPL in August of 1990. The listing requires a thorough investigation and, if necessary, cleanup of hazardous substances at the site. This includes a Risk Assessment to determine whether there is any significant risk to human health or the environment. In addition to the ground water, EPA is concerned about the potential impact of the site on air quality, surface water, and soils. EPA and the company are working together to develop alternatives for addressing the potential problems at the site.

## Community Involvement

EPA has decided to conduct telephone interviews with Soda Springs residents to develop a more comprehensive Community Relations Plan for the site. An interim Community Relations Plan is currently available at the information repository in the Soda Springs Public Library. If you would like to be interviewed or would like to have your name added to the mailing list, please return the attached form or call **Dan Phalen** at **1-800-424-4EPA**.

### More Information?

For additional written information, an information repository has been established for documents relevant to the site:

**Soda Springs Public Library**  
149 South Main  
Soda Springs, ID 83276

You may also phone EPA at **1-800-424-4EPA**.

**Tim Brincefield**  
EPA project Manager  
Seattle, WA

or

**Dan Phalen**  
EPA Community Relations Coordinator  
Seattle, WA

If you are not on the mailing list, please fill out this form and return to:

U.S. EPA, Attn: Dan Phalen  
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117(CR)  
Seattle, WA 98105

I would like to be added to the mailing list for:

- ☐ Kerr-McGee
- ☐ Monsanto
- ☐ The Idaho Radionuclide Study

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to speak with an EPA representative.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10 (HW-117-CR)  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle WA 98101

**Superfund Update**  
**Monsanto**